

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A harness for a child comprising:
 - a support belt for encircling the child's waist, the support belt having a front portion and a rear portion and first and second ends, the ends being connected together at a coupling at the rear portion to allow the support belt to be fastened around the child's waist;
 - a crotch support member extending from the front portion to the rear portion;
 - an upper torso support component extending from the front portion to the rear portion; and
 - a handle ~~connecting the support belt and the upper torso support component~~ for allowing the child to be lifted and supported by the harness, the handle having top and bottom ends, the top end connected to the rear portion of the upper torso support component and the bottom end connected to the rear portion of the lower torso support component such that when supporting the child aloft by the handle, no coupling bears the child's weight ~~the handle allowing the child to be lifted and supported by the harness~~.
2. (currently amended) The harness of claim ~~1~~ 20 wherein the support belt includes first and second ends, the ends being connected together to allow the support belt to be fastened around the child's waist, the first and second ends being connected together at the rear portion.
3. (currently amended) The harness of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the crotch support member includes a bifurcated end having a first and second tail, the first tail connected to the support belt near the first end and the second tail connected to the support belt near the second end.

4. (original) The harness of claim 3 wherein the upper torso support component includes left and right straps, the left strap connecting to the front portion of the support belt, extending over the child's left shoulder and connecting to the rear portion of the support belt, the right strap connecting to the front portion of the support belt, extending over the child's right shoulder and connecting to the rear portion of the support belt.

5. (currently amended) The harness of claim 4 18 wherein the left and right straps each include a releasable connection between the child's shoulder and the support belt.

6. (original) The harness of claim 5 wherein the left and right straps are connected together by a chest strap.

7. (original) The harness of claim 5 wherein two handles connect the support belt and the upper torso support component, the two handles including a left handle connecting the support belt and the left strap and a right handle connecting the support belt and the right strap.

8. (original) The harness of claim 7 further comprising a clasp mounted to one of the left and right handles, the clasp allowing connection of the left and right handles.

9. (original) The harness of claim 8 wherein the left and right handles are semi-rigid such that each handle extends out from the child's back when clasped together to facilitate grasping of the handles.

10. (original) The harness of claim 9 further comprising fasteners for securing the handles against the upper torso support component, the handles lying flat against the child's back when secured by the fasteners.

11. (original) The harness of claim 10 wherein the harness provides sufficient support to the child to allow lifting and holding the child aloft even when the first and second ends of the support belt are disconnected and the left and right straps are disconnected between the child's shoulder and the support belt.

12. (currently amended) A harness for a child, the harness comprising an upper torso support component having front and rear portions, a lower torso support component having front and rear portions, and two semi-rigid handles extending between the rear portions of the upper and lower torso support components, each handle having top and bottom ends and a handle length, the top and bottom ends being connected to the ~~front and~~ rear portions at mounts spaced apart by a flex length, the flex length being less than the handle length such that the handles flex to provide handle voids to facilitate grasping the handles.

13. (original) The harness of claim 12 wherein one of the handles includes a clasp for connecting the handles, the handles flexing out from the child's back when clasped together.

14. (original) The harness of claim 13 further comprising fasteners for securing the handles against the upper torso support component, the handles lying flat against the child's back when secured by the fasteners.

15. (original) The harness of claim 12 wherein the upper torso support component includes left and right straps and the lower torso support component includes a support belt and a crotch support member, the crotch support member and the left and right straps extending from a front portion of the support belt to a rear portion of the support belt.

16. (original) The harness of claim 15 wherein the left strap extends from the front portion of the support belt over the child's left shoulder to the rear portion of the support belt and the right strap extends from the front portion of the support belt over the child's right shoulder to the rear portion of the support belt, each strap including a coupling between the child's shoulder and the rear portion of the support belt.

17. (original) The harness of claim 16 wherein the support belt includes first and second ends, the first and second ends being connected at the rear portion.

18. (original) The harness of claim 17 wherein the harness provides sufficient support to the child to allow lifting and holding the child aloft even when the first and second ends of the support belt are disconnected and the left and right straps are disconnected between the child's shoulder and the support belt.

19. (new) A harness for a child comprising:

- a support belt for encircling the child's waist, the support belt having front and rear portions and first and second ends, the ends being connected together at the rear portion to allow the support belt to be fastened around the child's waist;
- a crotch support member extending from the front portion to the rear portion and including a bifurcated end having a first and second tail, the first tail connected to the support belt near the first end and the second tail connected to the support belt near the second end;
- an upper torso support component extending from the front portion to the rear portion and including left and right straps, the left strap connecting to the front and rear portions of the support belt and extending over the child's left shoulder, the right strap connecting to the front and rear portions of the support belt and extending over the child's right shoulder; and
- a handle connecting the support belt and the upper torso support component, the handle allowing the child to be lifted and supported by the harness.

20. (new) A harness for a child comprising:

- a support belt for encircling the child's waist, the support belt having a front portion and a rear portion;
- a crotch support member extending from the front portion to the rear portion;
- an upper torso support component extending from the front portion to the rear portion; and
- a semi-rigid handle for allowing the child to be lifted and supported by the harness, the handle extending between the rear portions of the support belt and upper torso support component, the handle having top and bottom ends and a handle length, the top and bottom ends being connected to the rear portions at mounts spaced apart by a flex length, the flex length being less than the handle length such that the handles flex to provide handle voids to facilitate grasping the handle.